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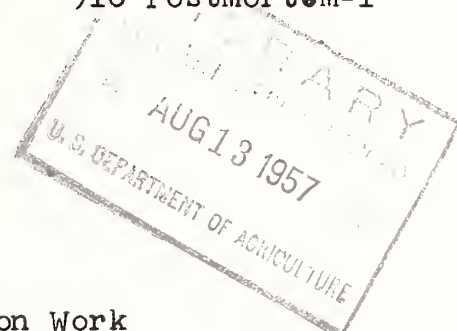
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service
Inspection Branch, Poultry Division
Washington 25, D. C.

AMS PY-Instruction No.
918 Postmortem-1

ACTION BY: Area, Ass't Area, and
Circuit Supervisors
All Poultry Inspectors
Graders Licensed for Postmortem
Duties
Plant Managers



Emergency Postmortem Inspection Work

I PURPOSE

The purpose of this instruction is to cancel and supersede Instruction No. 918 (PY) Post Mortem-1 (Emergency Post Mortem Work) dated 9/3/52, and to establish the policy governing the performance of postmortem inspection work by lay inspectors and/or civil servant graders licensed to perform postmortem inspection, in order to maintain continuous plant operation in emergencies, such as illness of veterinary inspectors, and outline the responsibilities that will be assigned the civil servant grader in order to enable the veterinary inspector to leave the line while he checks the finished ready-to-cook products and other operations in the plant.

II POLICY

This instruction is intended to cover two kinds of situations, Vis:

- (1) When a veterinary inspector is ill and unable to work, and a lay inspector or civil servant grader who has been trained and licensed for postmortem work is employed at the plant;
- (2) When a veterinary inspector must leave the line to check finished product or other plant operations and a civil servant grader who has been trained and licensed for postmortem work is employed at the plant.

In case of emergency absence of the veterinary inspector from the plant, it would be permissible for the lay inspector or grader to operate the eviscerating line until a relief veterinary inspector can reach the plant, provided that adequate facilities are available for holding birds which the lay inspector or grader retains for final inspection and disposition by the

Emergency Postmortem Inspection Work

(II Con't)

relief veterinary inspector. The rack or other equipment necessary for holding retained carcasses must be constructed so that they will hold the birds individually without contamination. When the veterinary inspector leaves the line to check other operations, a grader trained in postmortem work would be permitted to operate the eviscerating line for short periods, the total of which should not exceed two hours in a given day provided adequate facilities are available as mentioned above.

III PROCEDURE

In the event that it is necessary to use this emergency procedure, the lay inspector, grader, or the plant management shall attempt to determine the expected duration of the veterinary inspector's illness and shall notify the area office as soon as possible by telephone. A relief veterinary inspector must be sent to the plant at once unless it is determined that the regular inspector shall be able to return to work for the next shift. It is desirable that retained birds be held under refrigeration. Retained birds should be placed under refrigeration whenever operating conditions will permit, but they must be placed under refrigeration when they are being held overnight, and during the day, when it is determined that it is necessary for the preservation of wholesomeness. The lay inspector or grader must count the number of birds retained in the refrigeration for veterinary inspection and he must check the number when final inspection is made. A qualified licensed grader must be available to perform grading duties at all times when the civil servant grader is performing emergency postmortem inspection duties.

IV RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LAY INSPECTOR AND/OR GRADER

Postmortem examination consists of inspecting the entire carcass, including all parts, organs, and body tissues for evidence of disease, parasitic infestation, or other abnormal conditions. He is given authority to condemn carcasses which are obviously unfit for food due to specific, readily recognizable conditions.

Emergency Postmortem Inspection Work

(IV Con't)

For certain other conditions, he is responsible for retaining carcasses in order to assure thorough final inspection of such carcasses by a veterinary inspector.

V CONDEMNATIONS AND RECORDS

In such emergencies Item (1) paragraph II, obviously unfit birds may be condemned by the lay inspector or grader. The lay inspector or grader should record his condemnations for (1) decomposition, (2) contamination, (3) overscald, or (4) other causes. The lay inspector, or grader is not required to specify the nature of "other causes".

VI SUPERVISION OF CIVIL SERVANT GRADER

During the time that the grader is performing inspection duties, he reports directly to the inspector-in-charge of the station. The veterinary inspector-in-charge makes frequent checks of the dispositions being made by the grader, regardless of whether carcasses have been set aside for further examination.

Roy E. Willie
Roy E. Willie, Chief
Inspection Branch, Poultry Div.

